

Brazil / Paraguay

Boundary

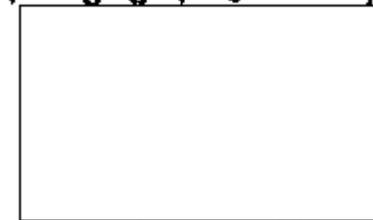
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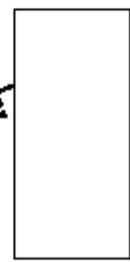
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ACTION: Embassy ASUNCION 138

SUBJECT: Guaira Boundary Issue

REF: FBTEL 259

INFO: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO 1257

During luncheon Feb. 8, Brazilian Amb. Leitao da Cunha gave Amb. Gordon
 GOB position on Guaira border issue. Said boundary largely demarcated on
 map and this demarcation is basis for joint instructions to Mixed Boundary
 Commission for marking border on ground. Leitao da Cunha stated principle is
 unequivocally accepted in international law that boundary treaties are construed
 in accordance with geographical information available on treaty date, and not
 subject to revision because of new geographical information. He convinced
 therefore that arbitration would rule in favor Brazil and for this reason,
 Paraguay has not accepted GOB offer to submit issue to arbitration. Further
 stated GOB will not initiate arbitration procedures since its position is that
 there is no issue but, as matter of grace, is entirely willing to accept
 arbitration if requested by GOP.

Leitao da Cunha also said Brazilians most unlikely accept withdrawal of
 Bras. troops from Guaira area since this would concede principle that
 territory is in dispute, which they do not admit.

Bras. Amb. said he believed real way to solve problem might well be to
 merge it into more important issue of power and navigation development of
 Guaira Falls, perhaps as multi-national project with IIS, UN Special Fund,

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World Bank, and AID participation. Leitao da Cunha warned however that initiative along above line must be carefully handled as issue also susceptible of nationalist exploitation in Brazil.

Amb. Gordon plans to discuss border issue further with Foreign Minister Magalhaes in Brazil.

END.

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